



VMFA(AW)-224 Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Policy

Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat of force, or abuse of authority; or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assaults can occur to anyone, regardless of race, gender, rank or age. Sexual assault is a criminal act, and it *shall not be tolerated*.

Be the most ready when the nation is least ready: A sexual assault is a criminal act, and is an attack on a member of our family. It is every bit as real, and every bit as harmful as an attack in combat. It destroys trust and damages our ability to work together as a team. Sexual Predators are our enemy. We need to remain vigilant and hunt them down as we would any other adversary.

Brilliance in the basics: All Bengals must be familiar with MCO 1752.5B. We all have a role to play in preventing this crime. When it comes to consent, if there is a doubt, there is no doubt. If he/she says no or is unable to clearly give full consent to the act, then DO NOT DO IT!

Take care of each other: Alcohol use is frequently cited as a factor in sexual assaults. Irresponsible alcohol use places you at risk. Bengals must ensure they do not allow an assault to occur due to irresponsible alcohol use. Never allow a fellow Bengal to enter a threat area without a wingman.

Keep our Honor Clean: Sexual assaults are contradictory to every principle, value, and trait we hold sacred as Marines and Sailors.

Reporting: Failure to report or ignoring sexual assaults can have a damaging effect on both the victim and the squadron. Victims are highly encouraged to make complete, unrestricted reports to achieve the goals of the SAPR program. However, victims are also afforded the opportunity to make restricted reports should they so desire. Victims must know their safety will be paramount at all times. Victims shall be treated with sensitivity, dignity, and respect. The victim shall be protected from coercion, retaliation, and reprisal. For victims making unrestricted reports, they will receive the support they require, including medical, emotional, psychological, and other social services. The incident will be investigated by NCIS and the command will be notified. Extreme care will be taken to ensure the victim's identity is only released to those with a need-to-know (e.g., CO, PMO, NCIS). For victims making restricted reports, the command will not be notified in any form or fashion and there will not be an investigation of any type. For victims making restricted reports, they will also receive the support they require, including medical, emotional, psychological, and other social services. However, the command will have no knowledge of the care received or needed.

Assistance: Squadron Uniformed Victim Advocate (UVA), 2d MAW or MCAS Beaufort Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), chaplain, flight surgeon, Marine Corps Community Service (MCCS), and the chain of command

Reference: MCO P1752.5B (Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program)

Semper Fidelis,

M. P. SHAND,
Commanding Officer, VMFA(AW)-224

30 October 2014